

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A confederacy comprising:

a network;

a plurality of devices coupled via said network, at least one of said devices having a resource, said resource being embedded web content;

means for announcing confederacy members by sending a message to a confederacy multicast address, wherein the devices permanently listen for other announcements on the confederacy multicast address and establish a confederacy if there are no other confederacy members, and wherein if a confederacy has already been established, all other members send unicast replies to a new device for establishing communication between the new device and existing confederacy members;

means for automatically allowing at least one new member to join the confederacy if the new member indicates that it has embedded content or other resources of interest to existing members of the confederacy, wherein the new member is queried by existing members and queries the existing members are queried by the new members for existing web content names and associated Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) and wherein reciprocal monitoring relationships are established with the between both existing and new members so that each existing and new member can monitor changes in the web content of the other existing and new members;

means for automatically effecting communication with respect to said resource between said device having said resource and at least one other of said devices coupled via said network; and

a central access device for allowing an administrator to remotely manage the plurality of devices connected to the network without requiring individual physical access of each device to browse the web content therein.

2. (original) The invention of claim 1 wherein said network is an intranet.
3. (canceled).
4. (previously presented) The invention of claim 1 wherein said means for automatically effecting communication is an agent residing on at least one of said devices.
5. (original) The invention of claim 4 wherein said agent resides on said device having said resource.
6. (original) The invention of claim 5 further including an agent running on each device on said network.
7. (original) The invention of claim 6 wherein each agent running on each of said devices on said network is implemented in software.
8. (original) The invention of claim 7 wherein said agents include code for establishing said confederacy.
9. (original) The invention of claim 8 wherein said agents include code for joining said confederacy.
10. (original) The invention of claim 8 wherein said agents include code for providing a consistent view of web content embedded on at least one of said devices.
11. (original) The invention of claim 8 wherein at least one device includes memory for caching an object value from a device in said confederacy.

12. (original) The invention of claim 8 wherein at least one of said agents includes code for allowing each member to act as a portal.

13. (original) The invention of claim 8 wherein said agents include code for monitoring changes at said other devices in said confederacy.

14. (original) The invention of claim 8 wherein said agent includes code for verifying that a member device is active and in the confederacy.

15. (currently amended) A confederacy comprising:

a network;

a plurality of devices coupled via said network, at least one of said devices having a resource, said resource being embedded web content;

a central access device for allowing an administrator to remotely manage the plurality of devices connected to the network without requiring individual physical access of each device to browse the web content therein; and

a software agent running on each device for establishing a confederacy therebetween, wherein with each new established device of the confederacy, the new device queries the other devices for existing web content names and their associated Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) for establishing reciprocal monitoring relationships with the devices so that each device can monitor changes in the web content of the other devices and wherein the software agent automatically allows at least one new member to join the confederacy if the new member indicates that it has embedded content or other resources of interest to existing members of the confederacy, wherein the new member is queried by existing members and queries the existing members are queried by the new members for existing web content names and associated Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) and wherein reciprocal monitoring relationships are established with the between both existing and new members so that each existing and new member can monitor changes in the web content of the other existing and new members.

16. (original) The invention of claim 15 wherein said network is an intranet.

17. (original) The invention of claim 15 wherein each agent running on each of said devices on said network is implemented in software.

18. (original) The invention of claim 15 wherein said agents include code for joining said confederacy.

19. (previously presented) The invention of claim 18 wherein said agents include code for providing a consistent view of said web content.

20. (original) The invention of claim 18 wherein at least one device includes memory for caching an object value from a device in said confederacy.

21. (original) The invention of claim 18 wherein at least one of said agents includes code for allowing each member to act as a portal.

22. (original) The invention of claim 18 wherein said agents include code for monitoring changes at said other devices in said confederacy.

23. (original) The invention of claim 18 wherein said agent includes code for verifying that a member device is active and in the confederacy.

24. (currently amended) A method for establishing a confederacy including the steps of:

coupling a plurality of devices via a network, at least one of said devices having a resource, said resource being embedded web content;

announcing confederacy members by sending a message to a confederacy multicast address, wherein the devices permanently listen for other announcements on the confederacy multicast address and establish a confederacy if there are no other confederacy members, and wherein if a confederacy has already been established, all other members send unicast replies to a new device for establishing communication between the new device and existing confederacy members;

remotely managing, by an administrator, the plurality of devices connected to the network without requiring individual physical access of each device to browse the web content therein;

automatically effecting communication with respect to said resource between said device having said resource and at least one other of said devices coupled via said network, wherein with each established member, the new device queries the members for existing web content names and their associated Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) for establishing reciprocal monitoring relationships with the member so that each can monitor changes in the web content of the other members, wherein the reciprocal monitoring relationships includes acknowledging an object addition, deletion, or change that has been received by a monitored device; and

automatically allowing at least one new member to join the confederacy if the new member indicates that it has embedded content or other resources of interest to existing members of the confederacy, wherein the new member is queried by existing members and queries the existing members are queried by the new members for existing web content names and associated Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) and wherein reciprocal monitoring relationships are established with the between both existing and new members so that each existing and new member can monitor changes in the web content of the other existing and new members.